



MARTINELLI
WINERY & VINEYARDS

Chico's Hill Syrah
Russian River Valley
2009

Vineyard Character

The Chico's Hill vineyard is only one acre large. It has a great soil profile which consists of fractured rock. Fractured rock makes great growing conditions because the rock warms the earth by the early morning sun, stimulating vine growth. In addition, rain water penetrates the soil depth easily and is a very well drained ground. Chico's Hill is an easterly facing slope with great sun exposure and good air flow. The landscape is long and narrow, approximately a 45 degree slope, and is actually shaped like a horse's nose. The rows are oriented in a north-south direction to equalize sunlight exposure on both sides of the canopy morning and afternoon. For vine training we installed a vertical trellis system with fruit wire sitting 22 inches above ground level, encouraging consistent ripening of the grape clusters. The vineyard consists solely of clone 877.

The grapes are picked between 25 and 27 degrees brix to ensure mature ripe fruit flavors. After picking, the whole berries undergo a long cool fermentation to generate skin contact and expose fruit character, being fermented with wild yeast. The juice is transferred into oak barrels with a touch of residual sugar remaining to complete the fermentation process in barrel until dry. It rests in 90% new French oak on its gross lees for one year. This wine is neither heat nor cold stabilized and is un-fined and unfiltered.

Case Production: 34

Tasting Notes

The 2009 Chico's Hill Syrah has flinty, earthy and floral violet aromas. Flavors are rich plum and wild ripe blueberry backed by bold tannins and a touch of white pepper.

Historical Acclaim

2007 Vintage

- 93 points Josh Raynolds, Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar

2006 Vintage

- 91 points Josh Raynolds, Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar
- 90 points Robert M Parker Jr. The Wine Advocate

Winemaker: Bryan Kvamme

Consulting Winemaker: Helen Turley